

OCT 5 2016

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

744-7
Representatives from Oregon 811 and NW Natural Gas were on hand at Knight Elementary School at the end of September to provide fresh drinking water by upgrading the water fountains at the school with filtered water refilling stations.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



WATER WORKS

Knight Elementary School got more than an upgraded water system thanks to some timely and generous donations

Knight Elementary School teacher Joyce Brown knows it never hurts to ask. In turn, The Oregon Utility Notification Center knows how important it is to answer the call.

When you put determined community partners together, great things can happen for local children.

Brown saw an opportunity for a donor to become a big hero at Knight Elementary as Canby School District started upgrading the water fountains in each building to incorporate filtered water refilling stations. The Elkay Water Bottle Filling Stations allow staff and students to access clean and safe water.

The stations meet lead reduction requirements, earning NSF/ANSI 53 certification. Canby School District's water quality tests came back negative for detectable levels of lead and other contaminants. Even with the test results indicating clean, safe water at all facilities, the district believed this upgrade would afford peace of mind to anyone who enters one of CSD's facilities. This proactive approach limits the need for expensive, ongoing water quality testing.

Brown saw the benefits of these water filling stations right away; she wanted to equip students with refillable water bottles to help keep them hydrated. That's when she reached out to The Oregon Utility Notifica-

tion Center (OUNC), which runs the "Oregon811 - Call Before You Dig" campaign. The organization offered to donate 400 water bottles to Knight Elementary School students, in partnership with NW Natural.

Both groups presented the water bottles and other educational materials to students on Friday, Sept. 23.

"Now we don't have to get out of the classroom to get a drink of water, so we don't have to interrupt our teacher," said one of Brown's fifth grade students.

NW Natural joined in on the fun, providing egg-shaped stress relievers, a reminder that the smell of rotten eggs could mean a natural gas leak.

"Bridging a local community service and our elementary school children is a great way to teach students about their world," said Knight Principal Christine Taylor. "We want to thank Oregon811 and NW Natural for teaching our students and supplying these water bottles."

And just as important as these groups answering the call is recognizing the teacher who dared to ask.

"I'd like to send a special thanks to Joyce for working to get this donation and bringing this information to our students," said Taylor.

-Autumn Foster, Canby School District

Roseburg, OR
(Douglas Co.)
News Review
(Cir. D. 18,287)
(Cir. S. 19,270)

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GLIDE

Glide School District water safe to drink

744-7
Glide School District announced that all its water is safe for staff and students to drink. All its water was either lead free or well below

the established Oregon health thresholds. 744-7

This announcement follows recently completed water testing performed at all the school district's facilities. It used an independent, professional lab, Umpqua Research, to perform the analysis. The district received test kits and followed the protocols to test the water.

Governor Kate Brown has created legislation for development of guidelines in the new Health Safety Plans required for schools, which include water quality testing. The school will develop a plan to meet these guidelines. It also plans to test school district water every two years.

The actual testing results can be found under a link on the school district's website at www.glide.k12.or.us.

WINCHESTER

Early lead results released

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Preliminary lead testing results in Dallas schools have found levels in some fixtures that exceed the Environmental Protection Agency's "action" threshold of 20 parts per billion.

Results found that the sources of most of those samples are fixtures that are rarely — if ever — used for drinking, said Kevin Montague, facilities director.

He said while he's not pleased to see tests come in too high, so far the results are better than he expected given the age of the school buildings.

"I knew we were going to have some (high) levels," he said. "I had no doubt about that."

The results, readings from "first pull" tests taken between Sept. 20-30, are part of the 552 fixtures tested district-wide.

All fixtures that students or staff could possibly use for drinking and food preparation were tested, exceeding the recommendations of both Oregon Health Authority and the EPA, Montague said.

The lab used for analysis, TRC Environmental Corp,

began sending the district results from only those samples that exceeded 20 ppb late last week.

So far, 24 samples have tested too high, but those do not include the 184 fixtures tested at Dallas High School, which still are under analysis.

Montague said fixtures testing high have been turned off except those not easily accessed by students or staff, such as those in storage rooms or blocked by equipment.

He said even those will be turned off as soon as maintenance crews can get to them.

"The nice thing is, so far, none of our main common area drinking fountains outside of our classrooms, which is where most of our kids drink anyway, have come over the action level," Montague said.

Montague said the scariest looking result came from a kitchen soup pot faucet at Oakdale Heights Elementary School that tested at 1,540 ppb.

He said that faucet was installed for a specific purpose is no longer used, according to kitchen employees at the school.

"The soup pot faucet has

not been used in years," Montague said. "It's a piece of obsolete equipment."

The district is waiting for preliminary results from Dallas High School and results from second tests taken on each of the fixtures that were high on the first sample. The results will tell the district what it needs to do to fix the problem.

The district had samples gathered following EPA guidelines of taking two at the same time, Montague said.

Samples were taken on Tuesdays through Fridays and between 4 and 7 a.m. before anyone used the fixtures. The first, or A sample, is the water from the first use. The second, or B sample, is taken after the water has run for 30 seconds.

"All of the A samples went in from testing," Montague said. "Any of the ones that came back at or above the action level triggered the B sample to go in for testing."

B samples will help determine where the lead is coming from — the fixture or the pipes feeding the faucet.

"We do not have any of the B results yet," Montague said. "If the B results come back and they are lower, we can pretty well identify the

fixture as the contributor and just swap out the fixture."

If the source is in the pipes, that could be a more complicated and expensive fix that would have to take into consideration the presence of asbestos and lead paint if walls need to be opened.

A final analysis will reveal the results of all tests, even those not exceeding the 20 ppb threshold.

Montague said once the complete report is ready, the district may want to have a conversation about whether it wants to follow EPA guidelines or set a lower threshold for lead in water in its schools.

"Twenty is the action level, but EPA and Health Authority say that no amount of lead is safe," he said. "That's probably a board conversation."

In other business, the district:

• Submitted its preliminary draft "Healthy and Safe Schools Plan." The plan outlines how schools will mitigate risks of radon, lead in water, lead paint, among other health risks. Districts were to submit draft plans by Oct. 1 and final plans are due in January.

Oct 1 2 2016
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Vale, OR
(Malheur Co.)
Malheur Enterprise
(Circ. W. 1,511)
Oct 1 2 2016
Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Keeping students safe

Lead discovered in 4 Vale school sites

District sends letter to parents on test results.

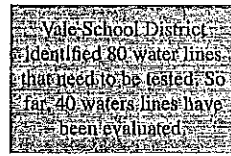
John L. Braese
The Enterprise
VALE — The Vale School District has notified parents that water tests conducted recently in the schools show elevated levels of lead in four water lines. The district sent a letter home with students to inform family about the test results. Superintendent Scott Linen-

berger wrote in the Sept. 27 letter that the district has identified 80 water lines to be tested, and 40 have been tested so far.

Results of those tests show elevated levels of lead at two Vale Elementary School sites — .0297 parts per billion at a tap in the reading room, and .0189 parts per billion at the tap in the ESL room. A tap in the Vale Middle School science lab had a level of .0187 ppb.

The Oregon Trail Learning Academy had the highest lead reading, showing .0687 ppb at a downstairs tap.

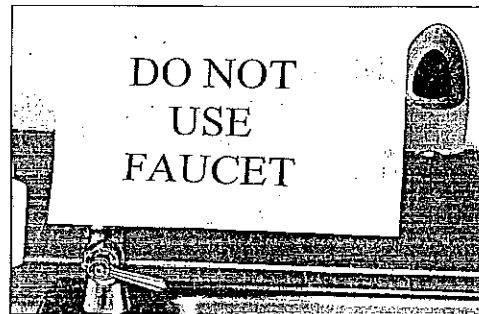
According to the district's notice, the Environmental Protection Agency lists .015 ppb as the



"action level" for drinking water. "This means utilities must ensure that water from the taps used for human consumption do not exceed this level in at least 90 percent of the sites sampled," the notice said.

Linenberger said the district is taking steps to correct the problem.

See Lead, Page 6



John L. Braese/The Enterprise

The Vale School District recently notified parents that recent tests showed elevated levels of lead at two Vale elementary school sites. The district discontinued use of the affected water lines.

Lead from Page 1.

"We have begun sampling for lead every six months so we can closely monitor the lead levels in our water system," Linenberger wrote. "In addition, we have initiated a public education campaign to ensure that people who are drinking water in our facility know about the action level exceedance, understand the health effects of lead, and the sources of lead, and action they can take to reduce exposure to leads in drinking water."

The district has turned off affected waterlines and posted notices at taps stat-

ing "Do Not Use Faucet."

Linenberger said the next step is to replace the water fixtures and retest at the sites.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency mandates agencies take steps to correct drinking water contamination.

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for young children and pregnant women.

High levels can cause damage to the brain and kidneys and interfere with production of red blood cells. Scientists have linked lead to lowered IQ in children.

Lead is stored in the bones and can be released

later in life, according to research. During pregnancy, the child can suffer lowered brain development coming from lead within the mother's bones.

The EPA estimates that most lead exposure is from paint chips and other environmental contamination, with 10 to 20 percent of lead exposure from drinking water. Buildings built prior to 1986 are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures and solder that can degrade and contaminate the water.

An additional 40 sites in the district have yet to be tested. Linenberger said test kits are on back order from the supplier.

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Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

744-7 Lead levels exceed limits at BHS

Lead levels in water samples from 20 sinks at Baker High School exceed the federal threshold for the toxic metal, the Baker School District announced this week.

Most of those sinks are in science rooms, and all of the affected sinks have been shut off, Baker 5J Super-

intendent Mark Witty said in a press release.

A total of 85 water samples from the high school were tested last month — 65 of those had lead levels below the federal limit of 20 parts per billion (ppb).

The district also had three water

samples tested from Keating School, none of which exceeded 20 ppb.

BHS and Keating are the last two schools for which the district has test results. Twenty-three of 159 water samples from other schools exceeded the 20 ppb limit.

See Lead Page 3A

LEAD

Continued from Page 1A

In total, 43 of 247 water samples had a lead level above 20 ppb.

The levels from the BHS samples ranged from 20 ppb to 123 ppb. The latter was one of four samples that exceeded

100 ppb. Those samples, all taken from sinks in science room 112, contained 110 ppb, 113 ppb, 113 ppb and 123 ppb.

Lead levels at other schools included:

- Baker Middle School: 9 sources, levels ranged from 23.5 ppb to 73.6 ppb.

- South Baker: 8 sources, levels ranged from 25.5 ppb to 67 ppb.

- North Baker: 3 sources, 21.9 ppb, 29.4 ppb, 49.6 ppb.

- Brooklyn: 3 sources, 27 ppb, 41.4 ppb, 68.4 ppb.

In the press release, Witty said: "The outlets have since been shut off and we can

now start reusing the rest of the system with confidence that the water is safe. These were the last two schools to be tested and we now have a good baseline to work from as we go forward remedying the issues we came across, and for testing protocol in the future."

744-7/

744-7 School District To Test Campus Water for Lead

by Linda Bergeron
of the Hells Canyon Journal

At the regular meeting of the Pine Eagle School Board on Monday, October 10, the board was informed by Maintenance and Facilities Supervisor Shawn Thatcher that, "The OSBA (Oregon School Board Association) recommended we should test for lead in the water. The state will pay for the testing," which he said costs \$30 per test (plus the shipping costs), and involves roughly 25 campus locations to be tested.

"We do have lead in the water," he said.

Thatcher stated the City of Halfway assured that there is no lead in the water supply.

"Lead leaks into the water," he explained. "We have until January to submit the district's plan" for handling the situation. "We may have to renovate the plumbing systems."

He explained that the state's Healthy and Safe School Plan, which addresses this, has seven components to it, which includes testing for radon and lead-based paint.

Present at the evening's meeting were Superintendent Cammie deCastro, Business Manager Lisa Butler, Principal Morgan Gover, Maintenance Supervisor Shawn Thatcher, and board directors Mark Butler, Michelle Butner, Heather Farley, Kim Rowen, Dwight Saunders and chairman Bob Seal. (Director John Minarich was absent.) Staff included Kay Young, and second grade teacher Dollie Becktold. Guests included several parents and 10 students, as well as Dan Koopman, the Baker County director for Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC), LeeAnn Jensen, and Khris Lorence.

Business Manager's Report

Lisa Butler said that the rates for the PERS (Public Employees' Retirement System) for the 2017-2019 biennium were recently released, and will increase by 4.87 percent for Tier 1 and Tier 2 employees, and by 4.23 percent for the OPSRP (Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan). The increases are fully expected to continue.

Mrs. deCastro reported that the OSBA is hoping to be able to effectively lobby about the dramatically increasing PERS costs, and is of the opinion that the issue of rising PERS costs "...is dependent on the impact of legislative actions and the upcoming election."

Accreditation Vote

Superintendent deCastro had provided the board with a full detailed page on the topic of Advanced Education High School Accreditation. At the September meeting the

discussion had been raised about how important a district's accreditation is to students seeking acceptance into a top notch university, West Point or the Naval Academy, or for enrolling exchange students. She said she would come back with detailed information to answer these questions.

She solicited comments from other school districts and the Oregon Department of Education. She found that the Education Department does not require accreditation; and very few high schools are accredited.

"Mark Whitty, the Superintendent at Baker 5J, has not required accreditation throughout the 20 years he has been in education," deCastro pointed out.

Importantly, she cited the amount of time district staff would need to invest in completing reports, in the preparation for and hosting of multiple-day site visits and the financial expense of the preparation involved in reports, which would duplicate supporting analysis and data that the district already provides the state.

She pointed out that each year a minimum of 34 reports are submitted to the state and 10 comprehensive program plans as well, which does not include grant reporting. The district averages five grants per year which necessitate quarterly reports as well as a final evaluation that includes a budget analysis.

She concluded, "Through the research we have found that students from non-accredited schools can access the same college and university options as those from an accredited schools. Foreign exchange students can attend a non-accredited school."

The board was unanimous in not seeking school accreditation via the Northwest Accreditation Commission.

Winter Sports

Included in the board's monthly Consent Agenda was unanimous approval of the September minutes, the month's financial register, plus the following contracts which continue these coaching assignments: Robert Thorn (girls high school basketball), Troy Tubbs (junior high boys basketball), Josie Graven (junior high girls basketball), Itsy Tanaka (high school wrestling), and Mike Butner (junior high wrestling).

An expenditure listed in the financial register - of \$1395 to Life Flight - was questioned, and explained as a purchase for all teachers [per their contract].

College Help

Dan Koopman, spoke briefly as a guest in support of "helping our seniors get the FAFSAs filled out." The annual application process for federal financial aid opened this month. He cited his personal connection to the area, his father having been born in Jimtown, the home place here known as 13 Acres, visiting the cemetery, and "poignant memories." His parents were not high school graduates. "The FAFSA," he shared, "is where it all started for me," on his road to becoming an educator.

Representing the college, Koopman extended an invitation to area high school students to take advantage of
Continued on page 6

Continued from page 1
the financial opportunities available to them through this aid as well as the Oregon Opportunity and Leo Adler grants, and, importantly, to emphasize that BMCC was available to help.

The Baker BMCC office will feature two possible days of student assistance. Students can get help with the FAFSA application on the Wednesdays of October 19 and 26, from 11:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Koopman suggested a willingness to visit the Pine Eagle campus.

(Later in the meeting Mrs. deCastro pointed out that it was no coincidence that Koopman had shown up to advocate for BMCC services. Later in the week, she and other administrators would be meeting in Baker City to discuss the possibility of exiting out of BMCC.) Back in 2000, county voters approved affiliation with the BMCC district with a tax rate of 66 cents per \$1,000 property value.

Drug Testing

The topic arose at the September meeting when Mrs. Jensen, a parent, brought up her personal concerns about youth and drugs. Superintendent Cammie deCastro brought specific details and related district policy to the October meeting as a result, so the board had before them Policies GBEC (Drug-Free Workplace) and GBED (Medical Examinations/Drug Testing).

The board discussed the matter at length, about the complexity of requiring drug testing. Whether it involves students who participate in extracurricular activities, or

staff members, or suspicious behavior, it grew apparent that undertaking drug testing on campus is not only costly but complicated to administer, and can carry legal ramifications.

Per Mrs. deCastro, "On student drug testing, there are a number of things we need to consider. Most school boards take a whole year to exhaust the subject. We need to be sure how we go about it, and have community meetings."

She pointed out that when a student does test positive, the district needs to provide counseling, usually elsewhere. If the parent chooses not to go to that program, the district still needs to provide that option. Testing could be done by Interpath Lab in Baker City. A male and female on staff have to handle the specimen.

"If the student tests positive we have to do a second test to rule out a false positive... From the OSBA viewpoint, if we were to get sued, we need to consider how we would hold up in court... And how do we handle prescription drugs? Some behavior could result from that."

She reported, "We've dealt with three drug-related issues in the past five years. When I mentioned this, [law enforcement] was shocked that it was so low."

Regarding staff, the suggestion from the OSBA is, that if the district has a concern, Pine Eagle's policy GBEC, section seven is specific on reasonable suspicion, and very hesitant about having such a statement in a negotiated contract.

"Our best course of action, liability-wise," deCastro said,

"is to train staff."

Director Seal pointed out, "You've got to be pretty careful on 'reasonable suspicion.'"

When deCastro was asked, "How did you find out about the three students," she replied, "We had a student tell us. We can do a student search. If witnesses were there, we can talk with witnesses. As soon as we find it, law enforcement is involved. A police officer cannot do a search, but the school policy allows us to do that."

Khris Lorenec said, "We've had some drug information seminars in town. If the school wanted information to staff and whoever in the community is interested, they will provide training -- on marijuana, alcohol, meth..."

Both deCastro and chairman Seal believed that would be beneficial. Director Rowen also liked that idea.

Mrs. deCastro summarized: "I just want you to know this is what we have flushed out so far -- I can get more detailed information -- and what we have to consider... Once we decide we want to follow this path, then we ship it back to OSBA and they put together policy for us... We have to have the impact on that, the possible consequences to the district."

One director pointed out that when a district decides that a student who is caught is to be completely cut off from activities, then for that student who has experimented, the social/emotional issues that the student is dealing with are compounded, and the decision might be a little more lenient.

Mrs. Jensen expressed her concern about marijuana, "It's available like candy," she said.

Seal pointed out, "There's a lot of emotional concern that's driving this," suggesting, "You do what you can do without drug testing."

Mark Butler's suggestion was "to get education from folks. It's good to know these things, what physical conditions look like... We already have policy in place. It's not like I want to see us stick our heads in the sand. I knew kids when I was in school, some would provide alcohol for kids... To subject them all to drug testing? I am not comfortable with that."

Director Butner said, "Parents need to teach their kids, talk to them... I don't want my kids tested... You've got a good policy in place."

Seal emphasized the value of getting information for staff and parents on recognizing suspicious behavior, to which deCastro added, "...and behavior caused by prescription or not taking the prescription medication."

It was agreed to add a one-hour work session on the topic to the end of the November meeting.

Attendance/Intervention

Superintendent deCastro addressed Policie JEA-AR (Attendance Procedures) and IK-AR (Academic Achieve-

ment Intervention), reporting that several procedures would be implemented "to ensure that a student is on track academically," stressing the importance of attendance.

"Students who are absent more than 10 percent during a grading period [usually four weeks/16 days] will be required to submit a passing Attendance Grade Check to be eligible for extra and co-curricular activities for each week of the following grading period. This procedure is in place to aid students in getting caught up on missing assignments."

Mrs. deCastro provided the board with a copy of a check-off list (Student Attendance Intervention Plan) that parents would receive in pinpointing what type of issue(s) are affecting a student's attendance problem. Examples are: transportation, academic, social, safety, health, home. It affords an opportunity for the parent and school to open a productive discussion and to work on a solution to poor attendance that is a collaboration.

Emergency Planning

Thatcher gave the annual safety report on Emergency Planning, affirming that regular fire drills have been carried out, per district policy. He said that they continue to

streamline procedures. The planned incident in spring 2016 was carried out with the Command System in place. He reported law enforcement has been present during lock-down drills, and that, overall, classified and administrative staff "are becoming more aware of learning the terminology and the drills."

District Home Sale

Continuing a preliminary board discussion, Mrs. deCastro reminded the board that with the house having sold, "the process of that would go back into the Building Trades as planned," except for the fact that a property lot was given for the program, which is valued at about \$25,000. The whole package -- house and lot -- sold for \$140,000. She posed the question of whether or not the board would still want the profits to go back into the program, and the consensus was affirmative. (This was not a vote.) By doing this, the program would be able to purchase another lot and "have capital to do something." Students in the program will also be doing building associated with the district's School Garden Grant.

Superintendent deCastro reported that, regarding the After School Program, there

is a sample schedule in place, but to date, no applicants for the position.

School News

Principal Morgan Gover had a brief update on class sizes, saying, "Students come and go, and class sizes continue to change."

For the Celebration of Learning segment of the meeting, nine second-graders (ages seven to eight) stood before the board, each reading from a recent assignment to create a simple but standard essay which included a statement of their topic, brief discussion, and a conclusion.

Junior Kayla Melchior, this year's school reporter, informed the board of the daily dress-up activities planned for the upcoming Homecoming week, leading up to the football games on Friday with Powder Valley, and the dance that evening. The first day for basketball practice, she said, will be November 14

Mrs. Jensen inquired about the results of a survey that had been passed out at School Night and during the football games, wanting to know what the results were. Mrs. Gover answered, "We didn't have a very big sample size," to which deCastro added, "We don't feel we have enough data to show."

The board next meets Monday, November 14 at 7:00 p.m.

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Halfway Hells, OR
(Baker Co.)
Hells Canyon Journal
(Circ. W. 1,100)

OCT 19 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

OCT 26 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

DHS lead testing results reported

DALLAS — Results from lead testing at Dallas High School revealed that 15 of the 184 samples taken exceeded the action threshold of 20 parts per billion.

Only one was a drinking fountain located in the school's shop that is not used, said Kevin Montague, the district's facilities director. That fountain has been turned off pending the results of a second sample.

The others that exceeded 20 ppb were science sinks and other fixtures not typically used for drinking and cooking. Signs have been posted on those fixtures saying they are not to be used for drinking or cooking.

Second samples will be tested on those fixtures as well.

Results of the second-sample tests and a complete analytics report should be sent to the district in the coming week, Montague said.

To find complete lead testing results, go to: <http://www.dallas.k12.or.us/lead-information-in-dallas-school-d>

744-7

Beaverton, OR
(Washington Co.)
Valley Times
(Cir. D. 3,850)

OCT 27 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

BSD CONTINUES TO TACKLE LEAD IN SCHOOL WATER FOUNTAINS

District moves forward to replace and retest fountains, provide bottled water to schools most affected

By RAVLEEN KAUR
The Times

After thorough lead testing revealed that nearly half of its schools had drinking fountains containing excessive amounts of lead, the Beaverton School District moved swiftly to ensure student safety.

All faucets that were pouring water with unsafe levels of the hazardous metal were replaced. As an extra precaution, bottled water was distributed to every elementary school where multiple fountains were found to contain excessive amounts of lead.

But at nine district schools, lead is still present in samples

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"The district is taking a really proactive stance with testing."

— BSD
spokeswoman
Maureen Wheeler

From Page A1

of drinking water, even after faucets and supply lines were replaced, according to results from follow-up testing conducted last month by PBS Engineering and Environmental.

In all, there are five drinking faucets and 17 sinks with water still above the action level; all are waiting for retest results from an Oct. 14 resampling.

Still, the district said it would continue its efforts to provide safe drinking water at all its schools and support facilities.

"The district is taking a really proactive stance with testing," said district spokeswoman Maureen Wheeler. "This really gives us a great baseline going forward."

Over the summer, more than 6,000 samples were taken from all of the district's schools and facilities; two samples were collected from each drinking fountain during the initial testing process.

Drinking fountains at 25 of the district's 53 schools contained lead above the action level of 15 parts per billion or higher as set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for municipal water suppliers.

Additionally, excessive lead was found in fountains at four out of the district's seven support facilities.

Schools where some fountains are still testing positive for excessive lead, even after faucet replacement, are: Beaver Acres, Bethany, Chehalam, Elmonica, Rock Creek and Terra Linda elementary schools, Whitford Middle School, Sunset High School, and International School of Beaverton.

Further investigations underway include testing additional components of piping systems to determine the source of the lead contamination.

In those locations, the district said, fountains will remain shut off, and the district will continue replacing parts and investigating the issue, until each is free of lead. Depending on the results, some schools may need to have their water systems overhauled, though such determinations have not been made yet.

Some schools on bottled water

Elementary schools that have been provided bottled water this year include Barnes, Beaver Acres, Bethany, Chehalam, Elmonica, Errol Hassell, Greenway, Hazel Dale, McKay, McKinley, Rock Creek and Terra Linda.

Highland Park Middle School will also remain on bottled water this year; that school's water system was previously set to undergo replacement during the summer of 2017.

At those schools, the district is employing large water-cooler type tanks to provide water for students. Students bring, or are provided, reusable water bottles to stay hydrated.

A new precedent

This is the most comprehensive lead testing the district has ever done, said Wheeler. Before this year, the

last record of comprehensive testing for lead levels dates back to 1989.

There is no statewide mandate requiring all school districts to test for lead. Although the Oregon Department of Education approved the "Healthy and Safe Schools Plan" in August, asking all school districts to summarize their plans for environmental and safety hazard testing, it does not specifically require schools to test for lead.

In its initial draft of a plan submitted to the state, the Beaverton School District did not outline a specific timeline for frequency of lead testing.

"We will await state legislation for guidance," said Wheeler.

The Oregon legislature approved a plan in September to reimburse school districts for lead testing done on drinking fountains and facilities used for food preparation.

Although the district's original lead testing contract with PBS was for \$190,000, it is working to amend that agreement to reflect multiple follow-up samplings and retests. The district is seeking state reimbursement to cover most of that amount.

The district is also continuing to test for other hazards, moving forward with its multi-year asbestos abatement process and completing radon gas sampling.

Radon sample testing this year found actionable levels at Ridgewood Elementary School. The district adjusted the school's ventilation and pressurization systems over the summer, and reports that it will continue conducting follow-up tests over the next few months. No other schools had radon above the EPA action level of 4.0 pCi/L.

Lead testing updates will be posted on district's webpage as they become available.

Water: Some schools on bottled water this year

744-7

'Elevated' lead levels at 2 schools

By Kelley Fiscaro
The Bulletin

Water from two fixtures at two Bend-La Pine schools was found to have slightly elevated levels of lead, according to a report the school district received Wednesday.

The district has so far tested 351 drinking fountains and sinks used for food preparation

at 14 facilities. Of those, one drinking fountain at Amity Creek Magnet, an elementary school in Bend, and one at La Pine Middle School had elevated levels of lead.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considers lead at 15 parts per billion to be its "action" level. When lead in water is at that level or higher,

action should be taken to minimize exposure, according to the EPA.

At La Pine Middle School, the water found to have 28 parts per billion of lead came from a drinking fountain in an unused classroom. At Amity Creek, the elevated sample had 31 parts per billion. By comparison, levels in Flint,

Michigan's lead water crisis, which varied greatly from house to house, were often reported in the high 100s. Given the amount of lead reaching an action level, Julianne Repman, Bend-La Pine Schools communications director, said the district is going to "proceed with an abundance of caution."

See Lead A6

Check results for your school

To find drinking water test results for the facilities Bend-La Pine Schools has tested so far, visit bit.ly/leadtests

Lead

Continued from A3

The district is providing bottled water at both of the schools, and running water won't be used for food preparation. Amity Creek was already having its kitchen remodeled, so food has been being delivered from the district's production kitchen in Bend. Repman said La Pine Middle School probably will get its water to prepare food from La Pine High School, located close by. Hand washing with the water is OK, as is showering, according to the EPA.

The district plans to test fixtures at Amity Creek and La Pine Middle School a second time to make sure the first tests weren't false positives.

From there, the school district will find where the lead is coming from and fix the issue. It could be lead soldering of a pipe, Repman said, or the fixture itself.

After initial testing in June, when one sample was taken from each of the school district's 38 facilities, the district made plans to test every drinking fountain or sink used for food preparation. So far, all drinking fountains and food prep sinks at school district facilities built before 1980 have been tested. Testing of schools and facilities built after 1980 was finished this week, and the results are expected to come back next month.

So far, the testing has cost about \$20 per fixture. The second tests at the two schools

will be expedited, which will cost about \$80 a fixture with about 40 fixtures total between the two schools.

Lead can get into drinking water when pipes corrode, especially where the water has high acidity or low mineral content, according to the EPA.

Repman said given the lead found in Flint, and in Portland schools, Bend-La Pine Schools wanted to do testing, even before recommendations came from the state.

"As we've watched other schools around the state test and some schools are finding very high levels, even in the 500s, so we knew it was a possibility and that's why we wanted to be proactive about it," she said.

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School lead fixes falter

Problem lingers in one-third of cases

TRACY LOEW
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Contreras collects lead testing samples from a drinking fountain on Wednesday. Salem-Keizer Public Schools has taken multiple samples from 3,765 fixtures in 85 buildings.

Salem-Keizer Public Schools has begun replacing faucets and fountains that produced water with high lead levels during testing last summer.

But that hasn't solved the problem in more than one-third of the cases so far, and district officials aren't quite sure why. "It's a head scratcher," district spokesman Jay Remy said. "In most of these situations, the faucets are coming back high, even though they're new."

In June, Oregon health and education officials asked school districts throughout the state to test fixtures for lead, following the discovery of high levels in water Flint, Mich., and in some Oregon schools.

Salem-Keizer already had announced it would test its schools. By the time it was done, the district had taken multiple samples from 3,765 fixtures in 85 buildings.

A hundred and fifteen fixtures, or 3 percent, tested above

the district's "action level" of 15 parts per billion, a threshold that's lower than the 20 ppb used by many other school districts.

Fifty-three fixtures have been replaced, and new samples were taken, Remy said. So far, 45 of the new samples have been analyzed, and 15 still are above the action level. Those fixtures will remain bagged and tagged so no one can use them, Remy said. More tests will be performed to determine if the problem lies deeper in the plumbing lines.

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Lead

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for copper, including six that also were high for lead.

The district sampled every water outlet that could be used for drinking or cooking, with the exception of seven staff room refrigerator ice-makers that were not hooked up.

District officials decided to retest those inaccessible so they would not be connected in the future.

Remy said. The district also is studying whether to test hoses on the outside of buildings that are not used for drinking or cooking, but that could possibly be used by sports teams to fill water jugs or for school gardens.

Remy said the total cost for testing and repairs still is unknown. District officials previously estimated that the bill for testing alone would be \$300,000 to \$350,000.

Lead and copper can leach from pipes, fittings and fixtures even when

the water meets EPA standards at the treatment plant.

Oregon outlawed lead solder in plumbing in 1985, so older buildings should be more at risk.

There is no safe level of lead, and experts say health effects can occur at levels as low as 5 ppb. Lead is especially dangerous to children.

The EPA recommends taking action, such as shutting off taps or replacing fixtures, at 20 ppb of lead. Some Oregon school districts, including Salem-Keizer, are using a stricter standard of 15 ppb.

The action level for copper is 1.3 parts per million.

Salem-Keizer will continue to regularly test water outlets for lead and copper, Remy said, although that schedule has not yet been determined. Check Salem-Keizer Public Schools' water sampling results at www.salleizer.k12.or.us/parents/water-testing-information.

For more information, contact tracyloew@statesmanjournal.com, 503-399-6779 or follow at [Twitter.com/TraCyLoew](https://twitter.com/TraCyLoew) 744-7

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COVE

District passes water tests

744-7

■ Cove School District drinking water meets EPA standards

By Dick Mason
The Observer

COVE — The Cove School District has received good news regarding its drinking water.

Lead tests conducted by a certified lab indicate that all of the school district's drinking water sites meet Environmental Protection Agency standards.

Cove School District Superintendent Bruce Neil was delighted to hear the news.



"This puts the minds of parents and our staff at ease," Neil said.

He said the school district takes pride in providing a secure environment for its students.

"Student safety is our top priority," Neil said.

School district officials had reason for concern because all of its buildings were built before 1986. Buildings constructed prior to that year are more likely to have lead pipes, fixtures and solder, according to the EPA's website.

Neil said that the school district's good water tests may reflect how well its buildings have been maintained.

The Cove School District's water was tested by Box R Water Analysis Laboratory in Prineville.

The Cove School District is one of many that have had their water tested in the past five months. All school districts have or are undergoing testing after Gov. Kate Brown called on Oregon's 197 school districts to craft procedures for testing for lead, radon and other chemicals by this fall.

Brown made her request after lead was detected in the water in schools in the Portland School District.

In mid-May, the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority created a plan regarding lead in school water.

The plan requests all school districts that get drinking water from public water systems test for lead at school buildings; requires districts to use certified drinking water testing labs to process the water samples; asks ODE and OHA to develop a method for schools to report results to OHSA; and requires OHA to provide drinking water expertise to schools for support as they test.

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